

LETTER

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE

H E N R Y
Lord Viscount CORNBURY.

Occasioned by
A LETTER from his LORDSHIP
TO THE
Vice-Chancellor of OXFORD in
CONVOCAATION.

To which is prefix'd

His Lordship's LETTER

I, Decus, I, nostrum; melioribus utere fatis.

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L O N D O N:

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LETTER

TO THE

Vice-Chancellor

OF THE

University of OXFORD

IN

CONVOCATION.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR,

IN the course of several Years in which
I have had the Honour to be chosen,
without Solicitation, one of the Re-
presentatives of the UNIVERSITY in Parlia-
ment, I have never imputed that Choice to
any Merit of my own; but have always
understood that Mark of the Favour of
the UNIVERSITY to me to have been the
Effect of Services, which the Ability and
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good Fortune of my Ancestors enabled them to perform to a Society deserving of the best Services, and which a Society less deserving would long since have forgotten.

INTENT to acquit myself of this great Trust to the utmost Extent of my Ability, I have consider'd it neither as the Means of Cabal nor of Advancement; but as a Civil Trust, in the Execution of which it has always been a Circumstance particularly agreeable to me, to find myself the Representative of a Free and Independent Society: And tho' I have not been able to serve that Society in other respects as I have wished to do, I have served the UNIVERSITY Free however and Independent; Independent not only of Ambition and of Interest, but of Party too, without which there is no Independence—Dependent only upon the great Maxims of Justice, and upon the Spirit and Forms of the Constitution of our Country.

It

It has been in that View particularly that I have found Satisfaction in every Confirmation of the Choice of me by the UNIVERSITY, as a Demonstration to myself and to the World of their Approbation of the Impartiality of my Conduct, and which in that Light has reflected perhaps no Dishonour upon themselves.

BUT as I believed from the first, and have long experienc'd, that a Trust of such a Nature, and so understood, is no light Undertaking, I have for some time perceiv'd my Health particularly unequal to that Service. Unable to perform the Duty of Attendance in the House of Commons; unsatisfied to let any personal Consideration of my own (even that of Health itself) interfere, however necessarily, with the Services which I owed to the UNIVERSITY, and to my Country; convinc'd too beyond a doubt from some Experience that my Continuance in the House of Commons would produce no Advantage to ei-

ther ; I please myself in thinking, that I do the best Service I can now do to the UNIVERSITY, in giving them an Opportunity to make a better Choice : and I have therefore accepted the Honour (which his MAJESTY's Goodness would perhaps have conferr'd on me some Years ago) of being called up to the Barony of my Father in the House of Lords.—An Honour, which I have received now with the greater Willingness, because I had full Confidence that I should occasion thereby neither Prejudice nor Inconvenience of any kind to the UNIVERSITY, whose Interests and Honour I must ever have at Heart, and whose Quiet and Unanimity (if possible) I must therefore particularly wish preserv'd upon all Occasions, and especially in the Exercise of this great Privilege, in which they have so singularly maintain'd an Independence and Dignity, so glorious to themselves, so exemplary to the rest of the Nation, so truly preserving the Spirit as well

as the Forms of the Constitution of *England*.

IN being thus remov'd from their immediate Service, the UNIVERSITY, I hope, will do me the Justice to believe, I can never withdraw myself from my Attachment to that Society.—For besides personal Obligations to myself, which I must always acknowledge, I know of what Consequence the UNIVERSITY is, and ought to be, to the good Order and to the Constitution of my Country, as well as to the enlightening and adorning it.—It must therefore ever be my ardent Wish to see that Source of national Welfare unencumber'd with whatever may interrupt the Constant Course of real Knowledge and Virtue, which attentive and sensible Discipline will ever produce, and which are so essential to the Honour and Interest of the UNIVERSITY, and to the Service, the Happiness, and the Glory of the Kingdom, necessarily to be deriv'd from thence.

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In any Situation I shall never lose Sight of these great Interests; and it will always be the highest Satisfaction to me to see the real Interests of the UNIVERSITY pursued by themselves, and advanced by others, as it would be the greatest Happiness to me to approve myself, upon all Occasions, their grateful Servant, and their faithful Friend.

With these Sentiments of my Heart, I take my Leave of the UNIVERSITY, resigning the Trust which they reposed in me; and I persuade myself, that they will do me the Justice to believe me, with the greatest Gratitude and Regard,

Their long obliged,
and ever faithful Servant,

CORNBURY.

A L E T-

A
LETTER
TO THE
Right Honourable
Lord Cornbury &c.



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L E T T E R

T O T H E

Right Honourable

Lord Cornbury, &c.

MY LORD,

IT was much expected by some well-meaning Persons here, that the Convocation would have thought fit to return a proper Answer to your LORDSHIP'S late gracious Letter, and been fond of paying their Acknowledgments upon an Occasion so evidently demanding them. But as nothing of this sort has yet been done, or is intended, that we hear of, there are some of us very unwilling to partake of the Blame of such Omission, and to be deprived of the Pleasure of expressing our

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Gratitude,

Gratitude, and returning our Thanks where they are so eminently due.—To avoid which, we venture to have recourse to a Method somewhat irregular; and presume, in this public Manner, to wait upon your LORDSHIP with a Testimony of our entire Approbation, and most respectful Sense of your LORDSHIP's Conduct, during the Time we had the Honour to be represented by You in Parliament.

'Tis probable the signal Services derived from your Noble Ancestors (which we trust will never be forgotten) might go far at first in determining the UNIVERSITY to this Choice; but 'tis no less likely, we think, that the early marks of Ability and Integrity discovered in your LORDSHIP, did also greatly contribute thereto, and have certainly been ever since a very powerful Reason for the Confirmation of such Choice. Your LORDSHIP's public Conduct (for we omit to say any thing here of the Amiability of your private Character) has
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long since acquired you the Esteem and Reverence of all Parties; and whilst envenom'd Tongues and Pens are daily making Attacks upon the most Illustrious Characters, 'tis a Privilege almost peculiar to your LORDSHIP to pass Uncensured and Unsuspected—How much soever Scandal may abound, we have heard of no one yet, hardy enough to open his lips in derogation of *MY LORD CORNBURY*.

AND whilst your LORDSHIP has been thus reaping the fruit of your Integrity and Impartiality in the Universal Esteem and Good Opinion of the Nation, your Constituents likewise have not been without their share of the Benefit: The Credit, and Honour, and Security too accruing to us from such a Representative have been very sensibly felt and understood in this Place; and in some late perilous Circumstances, were the Considerations of all others that afforded us the greatest Com-

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fort. While Report was making so free with the Character of the UNIVERSITY, it was ever a strong Presumption in our Behalf, and a Bar to the too easy Belief of any injurious Representations, that we stood so closely connected with your LORDSHIP, which seem'd to amount to a sort of Disproof of all such odious Aspersions. That the UNIVERSITY escaped so well out of that Distress, we must impute in a great measure to your LORDSHIP's Relation to it; and were we to suppose some extraordinary Forbearances in particular to have been owing to your seasonable Intercessions, or at least, to the very considerable Weight and Extent of your Authority, there would surely be nothing extravagant in the Conjecture.

YOUR LORDSHIP therefore has laid us all under very lasting Obligations; and however modestly you yourself are pleased to speak and to think of the Services done this Place, you will permit us, My LORD, to entertain

entertain a quite different Notion of them, Your LORDSHIP has been serving us a long time very essentially and effectually ; serving us, when you were least intending it, by your Character, and the whole Tenor of your Conduct ; and if you have not been able to serve us to the large extent of your Wishes, the World will readily acquit your LORDSHIP of every part of the Blame, and direct us, we apprehend, to look a little nearer home for the Reasons.

UNDER this Sense of things, we leave it to your LORDSHIP to judge, how very unwelcome the News was to us of your intended Resignation, which, beside the immediate loss of yourself, included in it the further Inconvenience of a Public Election, and this at a time, when we seem not to have been in the fittest Disposition for the Management of such a Business. It had been well, if the Unanimity and Gravity your LORDSHIP so kindly wished
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to see preserved on this Occasion, had been thought worth our Care. In such case 'tis possible, the good old reasons of Gratitude might have again prevail'd; and the UNIVERSITY, now more than ever indebted to the *Clarendon* Family, might have been induced to think of a noble Relation of your LORDSHIP's, and Descendant of Lord Chancellor *Clarendon*; One who lately received his Education with great Credit among us, and has since remarkably recommended himself in some of the more active Scenes of Life.

BUT, my LORD, as the Manner is, we took not a Moment's time to bethink ourselves on this Occasion; for Publick Elections of all Sorts, your LORDSHIP is to know, are usually entered upon here with a Precipitation and Passion that are perfectly surprizing in Liberal Persons, and conducted throughout with an Eagerness and Acrimony that, we are persuaded, would give your LORDSHIP much Uneasiness

ness to hear recounted. So it was especially on occasion of the late Contest.—The Event your LORDSHIP has been acquainted with, and the Wisdom of our Choice must be left to Time and Experience to evince; only thus much we must have Leave to hope, that the worthy Person, for whom a Majority of Voices has been found out on this Occasion, will think it no Diminution of his Character, to adopt the Maxims, and pursue the Plan mark'd out to him by his Predecessor, and to preserve that Independence in particular, which has helped to make your LORDSHIP so considerable.

FOR we would wish our Members, to maintain, if possible, the same Dignity and Superiority in the Representative Body that the UNIVERSITY maintains, or at least ought to maintain in the Collective; and therefore to be sure, we would wish to have them Independent,——One that is prone to Caballings, and prepar'd to
run

run off as soon as possible into a Private or Party Interest,—but more especially, One already fast bound in the Intanglements of Party;---One of approv'd and experienc'd Proficiency therein;---that has drank deep of the intoxicating Potion, and in consequence of this is become mighty in Acts of Violence,---such a One, we learn from your LORDSHIP'S Letter, can by no means be a proper Person to represent this UNIVERSITY.—For he has already made himself very contemptible, and by natural Consequence he will soon make us so too.—The UNIVERSITY, if not directly chargeable with the blame of his Misconduct, must be content however to share largely in the ill Effects of it; and 'tis easy to foresee that her Affairs must appear with a wretched ill Grace, and make a very untowardly Progress in the Hands of such a Person. Nay, who does not perceive, that in such Case, the important Interests of an UNIVERSITY

VERSITY will be most preposterously tack'd to those of a Faction, and must be expected to thrive accordingly.

BUT we are far from apprehending any such Consequences from the present Choice—Much better things are to be hoped for from our new Representative, who desiring to serve us, as no doubt he does, to the utmost of his Power, must take it kindly to be inform'd of the most effectual Means of so doing. After recommending therefore, in the most respectful Manner, to his Care the Interests of His and Our common UNIVERSITY, by every Method the most consistent with our common Dignity, we take Leave further to inform him (if peradventure he be not appriz'd of it already) that some unhappy Prejudices have lately gone forth against this Place, and particularly prevail, as we hear, in the House of Commons; which therefore we must rely upon him, as far as his Opportunities enable him, to
D remove;

remove; and we hope from him, that he will do his Endeavour to convince the publick of the Injuriousness, and Groundlessness of all such general Imputations, and at least make it plain to them, that we have done nothing justly exceptionable in our Choice of him. In what particular Manner he may best perform these Services, his own Prudence will suggest to him.—We presume not to give Directions to a Person of whose Abilities we have no Distrust; and if we have said any thing more than is necessary or becoming us on the present Occasion, our Jealous Concern for the Welfare and Honour of the UNIVERSITY, which we value above most other Considerations, must be our Excuse.

BUT to return to your LORDSHIP.

As we find, to our very great Concern, that a longer Continuance in our Service is become inconsistent with your LORDSHIP'S

SHIP's Health, which we must acknowledge to be too precious a Sacrifice even to the Welfare of the UNIVERSITY, we are determined to sit down, as well satisfied as we can, under the Thoughts of your Resignation; and we do very sincerely congratulate your LORDSHIP upon this new Mark of the Royal Favour, which, we verily think, was never more worthily bestowed. And tho' by this Means we are removed to a further Distance from your LORDSHIP, and may seem to have lost our immediate Claim to Protection, yet we can at no Rate think of parting with your LORDSHIP entirely.—No, my LORD, in whatever Situation you shall happen to be placed, the UNIVERSITY will still continue to have her Eyes fixed upon your LORDSHIP; will ever reckon you in the Number of her Truest and Best Friends, and upon all future Occasions, respecting her Interests, will naturally look up to you in that Light, as you so kindly encourage

rage her to do ——— We are very thankful to your LORDSHIP for these Encouragements ; and provided we go on to acquit ourselves like Good Members of the Community, and pursue the proper Business of our Stations, and preserve ourselves in a Capacity of having any Friends, we are perfectly secure, that this Place will never be without a Friend, upon all proper Occasions, while there is One of the Illustrious Name and Family of Lord Chancellor *Clarendon* remaining.

MAY there always be such a one remaining, and may your LORDSHIP particularly, with a plentiful Possession of Health and of every other Means of Happiness, live long.—The Patron and Ornament of our UNIVERSITY, and a Pattern of every Virtue, Public and Private, to the Nobility of this Nation.

THIS,

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THIS, my LORD, must naturally be the
Wish of every Good Man : It is, and ever
will be so, of

Your LORDSHIP's
most Obedient and most

Obliged Humble Servants,

*Oxford Feb. 9th.
1750-1.*

SOME OXFORD ELECTORS.

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